

Serial No. 10/797,578
Amendment dated December 3, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 25, 2007

Docket No. HI-0192

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, and 6 are amended, and claims 3 and 4 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, withdrawn claims 10-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

The Office Action indicates that 4-8 contain allowable subject matter. However, claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,818,419 to Tajima et al. (hereinafter "Tajima"), and claims 1-3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,835,072 to Kanazawa (hereinafter "Kanazawa"). Both rejections are moot because claims 3 and 4 are incorporated into claim 1.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Daniel Y.J. Kim**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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